

Care4Kids Initiative

Initiative Overview

In 2012, WI DHS successfully applied for a waiver from CMS to implement a medical home initiative for children entering out-of-home care through Child Protective Services. This initiative, Care4Kids, will provide comprehensive healthcare services—including inpatient, acute care, preventive services, dental, vision, behavioral and mental health—coordinated through a primary care medical home, and in collaboration with child welfare.

Key Points:

- Pilot initiative in 6 SE WI counties (Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington, Waukesha), with intent to expand statewide;
- Participation is *optional*—parents are encouraged to enroll their child(ren) in the initiative, and have the opportunity to opt out at any time;
- Enrollment will begin January 2014;
- Children's Hospital of Wisconsin is the Certified Provider for this pilot phase of Care4Kids; Children's is leveraging the expertise and resources within Children's Community Health Plan (CCHP) to administer this initiative;
- Care4Kids ensures the provision of individualized, coordinated, quality healthcare that is developmentally appropriate and trauma-informed;
- Participation in Care4Kids is available for up to 12 months after permanency, as long as the child remains eligible for Medicaid;
- While Care4Kids is a Medicaid funded initiative, a key objective is to facilitate effective communication across healthcare *and* child welfare service providers;
- Expectation to improve health and well-being outcomes for participants;
- Hugely integrated effort with many moving parts. Collaboration, creative problem-solving and realistic expectation-setting is essential among all stakeholder groups.

Process Overview—Milwaukee County*

Enrollment

At the time of placement, child welfare will obtain consent for enrollment. If parents are not available, children will be presumptively enrolled in Care4Kids through blanket court order. Enrollment specialists from DHS will outreach to parents to inform of Care4Kids and allow parents the opportunity to opt out.

Initial Screen

Initial screens will be provided within 2 business days of placement at a Child Advocacy Center/Child Protection Center.

30-Day Comprehensive Exam

Children's is partnering with primary care providers across the county who participate in the Children's Community Health Plan network to serve as "Centers of Excellence" for Care4Kids. Children in foster care have unique experiences and needs that require providers with appropriate training, accessibility and willingness to meet these needs. It is anticipated that there will be several Centers of Excellence available initially, and that more will be added over time as more providers become aware and are appropriately prepared. Children receiving their 30-day comprehensive evaluations at the Center of Excellence will be invited to remain with those providers as their Medical Home provider.

Ongoing Primary Care and Acute Care (e.g. the "Medical Home")

The Medical Home is a critical resource for children and families in the child welfare system, serving as the main coordinator of healthcare services. It is our expectation that many families will choose to remain at Centers of Excellence for their Medical Home. However, there may be circumstances where that arrangement is not the best option. In these cases, Care4Kids will also support the Medical Home (as long as the provider participates in CCHP).

Role of the Health Care Coordinator

Key to this initiative is the creation of a Health Care Coordinator (HCC) role. The HCC and support staff will facilitate coordination of care delivery and information sharing among healthcare providers to ensure prompt and efficient service delivery. The HCC will work with a child's healthcare team members to develop a Comprehensive Health Care Plan which documents identified needs and serves as a means of tracking met and unmet needs. The HCC and staff will also support healthcare providers in information gathering, facilitating specialist appointments and in general communication across systems.

* Note that some processes will differ between counties due to unique county-based resources.